

## A Second Sighting of Bat Hawk in Irian Jaya (Papua)

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### Perjumpaan Kedua Elang kelelawar di Irian Jaya (Papua)

**Ringkasan** Disajikan informasi mengenai perjumpaan Elang kelelawar *Macheirhamphus alcinus* di DAS Mamberamo yang merupakan catatan kedua di Propinsi Papua.

During a two week survey of the Mamberamo-Idenburg River (Irian Jaya Province, also known as Papua, Indonesia) we visited the forests immediately south of the village of Dabra (Mamberamo Hulu Regency) on the border of patchily well-forested hills to the south, and flat flood plains and swamps to the north. At 0805 h on 11 September 2000, our local guide Pak Wenan detected a dark bird perched at c. 12-15 m on the lower branches of a large tree in primary forest with little disturbance, several hundred meters from our base camp on the banks of the Tiri River (3°17'S, 138°35'E; c. 50-100 m asl). The medium-sized, dark hawk with the typically marked head was immediately recognized as the rarely seen Bat Hawk *Macheirhamphus alcinus*.

The Papuan race of the Bat Hawk *M. a. papuanus* is distinguished by its white under parts, and its lack of the crest that is so characteristic of the other two races in Africa, Madagascar, Malay Peninsula, Sumatra and Borneo. Most records of *papuanus* have come from the southern part of Papua New Guinea, with a few records from the northern coast of the far southeast. There is only one previous report of the Bat Hawk from the western half of the island (Irian Jaya). Glynn (1995) observed one bird in December 1990 at Kobakma (975 m), two days walking distance north of Wamena and less than 100 km south of the present location. This record, however, was not substantiated by a description or other details.

### Description and calls

Compact, dark, short-tailed hawk, about the size of a Grey Goshawk. The crown was blackish, and the nape white to whitish with a thin dark median line running from crown to the dark back. The dark mesial stripe was rather broad, bordered above by a white patch that ran from the bill under the cheek to neck and breast. No crest was seen. The bill was blackish, the whitish borders to the eye were conspicuous, and the eyes appeared dark. The very short tail was square to slightly forked. The wings were dark grey brown and the belly white.

Calls were recorded using a Sony MZ-R30 Portable MiniDisk recorder and ECM-PB1C parabolic microphone, and subsequently deposited at the National Sound Archive, London UK. They consisted of a series of 11-13 high pitched and rather weak notes, the first notes slightly lower in pitch and much weaker than the following, altogether lasting about four seconds: "sip-sip-tsip-tip-tip-tip-tip-tip-tip-tip(-tip-tip)", repeated with intervals of about half a minute.

The bird was most likely a juvenile bird, because of the extensive white parts of its plumage and its (possibly) dark eyes. Moreover its call may have been a begging call, and most closely approximates one of the two types reported by Beehler *et al.* (1986) as an Accipiter-like “ki ki ki ki ki ...” repeated rapidly. Bartels (1952) described a call, differing from the call of our bird: a repeated, short, rising two-syllabic “kleEK”, only heard on or near the nest.

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